Cultural and Arts centre in Hilly areas

1589. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements made towards promotion and development of arts and culture in the State of Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government have set-up or propose to set up Cultural and Arts centres in the hilly areas of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details thereof with functions and objectives thereof and achievements made by them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Protection, Promotion and Development of Indian Art and Culture is a major task of the Department of Culture. The Archaeological Survey of India looks after conservation and maintenance of 42 monuments in Uttaranchal, 40 in Himachal Pradesh and 69 in Jammu & Kashmir State. Funds to the tune of Rs. 25.30 lakhs were released to various organizations in the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) for upkeep of museums in Uttaranchal. Besides a project for construction of Uday Shankar Academy of Dance and Music at Almora is being funded under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Development and Maintenance of National Memorials. The Government of India has approved a grant of Rs. 5.00 crores for this project.

Under the Scheme of setting up of Multi-Purpose Cultural Complexes, the Department have sanctioned Rs. 150 lakhs to Himachal Pradesh Government and 162.50 lakh to Jammu & Kashmir Government. The Zonal Culture Centre at Patiala and Allahabad work for the promotion of diverse folk culture. The Akademies take up the promotion of cultural diversity in the areas of literature, performing arts and visual arts. National School of Drama has been organizing short term, intensive, production oriented theatre workshops in Nainital, Pithoragarh, Haldwani, Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal, Almora etc. during the last 5 years on regular basis.

Promotion of Haridwar as a Tourist Destination

1590. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haridwar, a religious place has not been promoted as centre of tourist attraction;